

Two years have passed and the money is still in the Prairie Farm Emergency Fund, used by the Government interest-free. In the meantime the Minister has announced cut-backs in research personnel in western Canada and an increase in research personnel in Quebec.

Research is vital if western Canada is to maintain its competitive position in grain and oil seeds exports. Unfortunately the Minister of Agriculture and his Cabinet do not understand this and refuse even to support a producers' self-help program at no cost to the Government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, part of the policy which Canada should pursue in order to promote human rights, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but in other nations world-wide, is to adopt the House of Commons Sub-Committee on Latin American and Caribbean Nations' recommendation that a Canadian Parliamentary Human Rights Association be established to serve as a forum for discussion and promotion of international human rights. This concept is fully supported by Amnesty International, the respected human rights monitoring organization.

● (1410)

I urge the House and the Government to consider seriously the formation of such an Association by way of a sub-committee of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. Sub-committees such as this would allow parliamentarians to monitor periodically the human rights records of foreign countries as a means of focusing attention upon Governments which abuse the human rights of their citizens, and as a forum for making recommendations to the Government of Canada on policies toward these Governments.

I would also urge that the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be given additional researchers and funding to assist in this important task.

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### CANADA POST CORPORATION

#### EFFECT OF MAILING RATES ON SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Madam Speaker, once again I want to try to make the point which I was addressing the other day when the egg-timer ran out on me. The point is that, while the new postal rates make volume discounts possible which will most benefit big business, and

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exemptions from the proposed surcharges for individual mailers, it is once again the small enterprises, the perennial bag-holders in the Government's airy-fairy schemes, which end up carrying the can.

The new rates, we are told, are to permit the greater use of automatic letter-sorting machinery and to encourage large mailers to pre-sort their mail, thus cutting down on the labour requirements of the Post Office. This is all very logical, except for the fact that, according to the figures given to me, in the period since March of 1981, the cost of first class postage looking ahead a month, has risen by 88 per cent, from 17 cents to 32 cents. The volume of mail handled has dropped from 6.5 billion to 6.1 billion, or over 6 per cent; and the number of permanent employees of the Corporation has risen from 53,465 to 66,121, which is almost 24 per cent. With statistics like these it is easier to understand why the Corporation seeks to limit its competition.

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### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### REDUCED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NATIVE STUDENTS AT SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Madam Speaker, there are more people of native ancestry per capita in my home city of Regina than in any other city in Canada. It is true that many live in an environment of alcoholism, welfare dependency, violence and despair. It is also true that they do not like it.

The Saskatchewan Federated Indian College at the University of Regina stands as eloquent evidence of that dislike. The College has helped to break down stereotypes. The young Indians who go there are taking advantage of the seldom offered chance to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to obtain new opportunities. Now everything which has been so carefully developed over six years of hard work stands threatened. It stands threatened because of a directive from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which would deny continuing financial support to one half of the students at the College. Is this any way to recognize and support the efforts of Indian people to break their dependency on welfare and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development? No, it is not. The Minister should immediately commit the Government to supporting those students.

The Saskatchewan Federated Indian College and its students must be allowed to plan for their future. We must stop speaking with forked tongues. We must not only talk about equal opportunities for native people; we must also provide them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!